



## Florida DECA Chooses Their Fall Collection Drive Charity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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Altamonte Springs, FL - Florida DECA Announces their fall collection drive charity as part of their bi-annual community service program known as Helping Hands. This year the charity that will benefit is the Clara White Mission of Jacksonville, FL.

Back in March, the newly elected Florida DECA officer team, Team 58, asked the chapters of Florida DECA to submit suggestions for charities in their local areas to become a Florida DECA Helping Hands charity. After looking at the suggestions we received, the Clara White Mission of Jacksonville, Florida was chosen to be the beneficiary of the Fall 2015 Florida DECA collection drive which will take place at the Emerging Leaders Summit conference in Clearwater.

The Clara White Mission was founded in 1904 with the goal of feeding the hungry. As per The Mission website (<http://theclarawhitemission.org>), the mission provides hands-on training for cooking/canning and business skills in the beginning, as well as transitional housing for the homeless. Today, Clara White provides over 400 hot meals a day to the homeless of Jacksonville and houses a minimum of 32 homeless veterans who are in the transition into jobs and homes. With the help of Florida DECA, Clara White Mission will be able to increase the number of hot meals they can provide each day while decreasing their overall expenditures on breakfast services, have a larger impact in their community, and provide some clothing necessities to those in need.

For this collection drive, the Florida Officers are encouraging chapters to collect grits, oatmeal, new (still in retail packaging) men's socks and undershirts. Chapters, it is time for you to get your competitive spirit on and start collecting these items to bring with your chapter to the Emerging Leaders Summit. If your chapter will not be attending the Emerging Leaders Summit, but would still like to donate items, consider contacting a nearby chapter and sending your collected items with them.

All participating chapters will be recognized at the annual Florida DECA Career Development Conference held in Orlando March 3-6, 2016. The top three chapters donating the most items will be awarded a traveling plaque. A point system will be established to properly validate the top three chapters.

This collection drive marks the eighth drive that Florida DECA has conducted since Helping Hands was established in 2011 by Team 52 President Daniela Rey. Through the efforts of Helping Hands, over 82,000 items have been collected and donated to various charities around Florida.

Florida DECA is a high school co-curricular education program with 100 chapters and 9000 members across the state of Florida for the past 58 years. Florida DECA is a chartered association of DECA, Inc. The mission of DECA is to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

For more information please contact the FL DECA Officer Co-Coordinator, Robert Hosier at [hosier@fldeca.org](mailto:hosier@fldeca.org). Chapter officers and members should contact the FL DECA President, Wesley Lopez at [wesley@fldeca.org](mailto:wesley@fldeca.org). Florida DECA, 623 Boniview Lane, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

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